

Yaphank, L. I.,
July 19, 1887.

My Dear May,

I thank you for the
extract from J. F. C. Whatever
else may be said of him, his
perfect candor is not to be
doubted, and his testimony
in regard to my review of
Thayer is all the more valuable
in view of the fact that he
was always critical of the
Garrisonian movement, espe-
cially in its latest feature of
Disunion. It is not long since,
in conversation with F. J. G., he
spoke of that as a blunder so
manifest that nobody could think

of defending it, and was surprised by the avowal that it was held to be an exhibition of the very highest wisdom and courage on the part of our great leader. But he was not blind to the great value of the Garrisonian movement as a whole, nor at any time reluctant to admit the truth. To how many good people did it seem that Garrison threw away his influence in attacking the Union! In reviewing his career at this day, it seems clear that his insight upon that point was in no wise at fault, any more than

it was in regard to immediate
emancipation and colonization.

I was glad also to see A.
J. Grover's letter. I do not know
him personally, but have long felt
much respect for him. On the
question of Catholicism he seems
to me rather wild. I cannot
think the danger to our insti-
tutions from that source is very
serious. The Catholics are not lea-
tholicising America half so
fast as America is American-
izing Catholicism. I do not be-
lieve the Pope is going to regain
in this country what he has so
conspicuously lost in Europe. The
gain of that Church here has been
chiefly through emigration, and the

priests are alarmed to find their
ascendancy over their flocks ^{rapidly} failing
under the influence of free insti-
tutions upon our immigrant pop-
ulation.

I mean to embrace the first
opportunity to read Tolstoi's *My
Religion*."

In spite of the very trying
and protracted ~~heats~~ hot periods
I have gained rather than lost
in health. To-day we have a
cool breeze that is most re-
freshing.

I have read with great sa-
tisfaction your remarks at the
funeral of Dr. Flint.

Yours, affectionately,
Oliver Johnson.